security arrangements into question; and

(b) if so, the concrete action Government have taken to check the recurrence and to combat the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Security Forces have handled the situation very effectively in both the cases. 'Public Order and Police' are State subjects and maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Government. It is for the State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve the law and order situation in the States.

The Central Government, however, keeps a close watch on various developments in the internal security scenario of the country and sensitises the concerned States in this regard. It also shares intelligence with the States from time to time. Central Para Military Forces are also deployed whenever required by the States. Funds are also provided to the State Governments to modernise and strengthen the State Police Forces.

Jail Reform Programme

161. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to launch an ambitious jail reform programme worth Rs. 1,800 crore to ameliorate the pitiable conditions of jails and their inmates across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to launch a new Prison Modernisation scheme of Rs. 1,800 crores to be implemented in five years starting from 2002-03. The scheme consists of construction of new prisons, repair and renovation of old prisons, construction of residential accommodation for prison staff and improvement of sanitation and water supply in the prisons. The Central Government provides 75% funds while the contribution by the State Government is 25%.